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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 31, 2007. With this Amendment, claims 1 and 23 have been amended and claims 27-29 have been added. All amendments and new claims are fully supported by the specification and drawings. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14, 16-19, 21, 23, 25-26, and 27-29 are pending in this application. In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests advancement of this application to allowance.

No new issues are raised hereby, and so Applicant believes that consideration and entry of this Amendment and Response After Final is appropriate.

New Claims

New claims 27-29 have been added to this application, and all recite four or more mounting points. New claims 27-29 ultimately depend from claim 1, and are therefore in condition for allowance as described herein. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Please charge Applicant's Attorney's Deposit Account No. 13-2725 \$150.00 for the additional three dependent claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, the phrase "front slot portions" was suggested to lack antecedent basis. With this Amendment, the phrase "front slot portions" has been replaced with "first slot portions," as recited in claim 1, from which claim 23 depends. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 23.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-6, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Yamagishi patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,647,469) in view of the Glaser patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,915,519). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Yamagishi patent discloses a coin sorting device. The coin sorting device has a sideways hinged gate, where gate plate 23 is pivoted above coil spring 14 at shaft 13. Similarly, the Glaser patent discloses a top hinged gate, where back plate 24 is pivotally mounted on the shaft 36 to swing away from the main plate 20. The hinge connection allows rotation about the hinge, but does not allow movement of the hinged components away from the hinge at the hinge.

In sharp contrast, claim 1 recites a coin validator including "means actuatable to move said cover, at said mounting points, in a direction away from said first side of said coin path so as to widen substantially the whole of said coin path including said return region, whereby to facilitate clearance of jams in said coin path."

The distinction is subtle but important. The inventor has realized that the unsatisfactory performance of the prior art in terms of reliable clearance of coin jams arose from the consistent and continued use of a hinge, such as shown by both of the cited references. A hinge does not enable movement, at the mounting points, in a direction away from a side of the coin path.

Therefore independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 3-6, and 25 depend from claim 1 and are also allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims.

Allowed Claims

The allowance of claims 14, 16-19, and 21 is gratefully acknowledged.

Allowable Claims

Claim 23 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. As discussed herein, claim 23 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 7-10, 12, and 26 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, claims 7-10, 12, and 26 depend from allowable independent claim 1 for at least the reasons set forth herein. Therefore, claims 7-10, 12, and 26 are also allowable. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

In view of this Amendment and Response, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. There may be additional reasons that the pending subject matter is patentably distinct from the cited references in addition to those discussed herein. Applicant reserves the right to raise any such arguments in the future. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 25 April, 2007

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